

**COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**  
**Wilderness Working Group Meeting Minutes**  
**September 3, 2002**

Attendees:

Joe Keys	Kris Hjelle	Celeste Marsh	Bob Sherrill
Terry Gray	Wade Johnson	Bill Schapley	Harold Snyder

**Greetings and Introductions**

Bill Schapley called the meeting to order.

**Working Group Discussions**

Bill asked if there were any additions to the agenda and expressed his desire to recap what the group has already addressed and what remains to be addressed. There should be one more meeting, and little is documented for the Wilderness Front Country. The group has reached consensus on the Mee Canyon Trailhead, BS road, the Gore private parcel, and the Rattlesnake Arch/cherry-stem issue.

It was asked whether the group needed to revisit recommendations resulting from the last field trip, and the general feeling was that more meetings may be needed but a decision on this would be made during the September 17 meeting.

Bob Sherrill stated that target shooting in the Horsethief State Wildlife Area and surrounding canyons is still not addressed. Bob was asked to draft recommendations regarding this for presenting at the next meeting. It was asked why the Bureau of Reclamation and/or the Division of Wildlife are not attending these Working Group meetings. The group was asked to keep October 1 open.

Bill addressed the first agenda item, reviewing the last meeting's minutes. Some changes were made to the minutes per the group's agreement, including the statement that parking would be prohibited outside of designated areas.

Warren Gore was not at the meeting, so Kris Hjelle presented her issues on upper and lower Rattlesnake Arches. The group agreed to start with the lower road, recommending that a few nice sites be cabled off.

Some mentioned the archeological significance in the campsite area. There is not much parking available that would not obstruct traffic, but it was discussed whether parking should be left as is. Recommendations were discussed regarding cabling at a true 30-feet, as well as using a more natural barrier material that would blend in better.

Allowing more people in one larger campsite was previously discussed, and the group wondered if it should recommend overflow campsites, with the sagebrush flat first and the triangle second.

There should be no overnight camping with appropriate signage to enforce this, and the group needs to make a recommendation on dispersed versus formal camping. Bill felt that the group had already reached consensus on the issue with expanded camping.

The road closure will affect which overflow campsite is selected, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) suggests keeping options open. The group feels it may be appropriate to revisit issues about the upper and lower access roads in the future. Dispersed camping should not be closed off but handled through adaptive management of the area. The group agreed to maintain the road in its current condition as a way to limit access.

Discussions ensued regarding fires and what would be allowed. Prohibiting fire outside of fire rings was addressed. Terry Gray said the biggest problem is everyone wanting to build their own fire ring. The group needs to remind visitors to follow the "leave no trace" etiquette, because many people are not aware of this practice. The group talked about the Wilderness experience and whether that experience is diminished by prohibiting even small fires. Fire rings create maintenance issues for BLM staff, but the group might consider some recommendations on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.